

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 20 and 21 are amended and Claim 36 is cancelled herein. Therefore, Claims 20-35 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 20-35 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification; hence, the amendments do not introduce new matter into this application.

Telephone Interview

On March 20, 2006, Examiner Choi participated in a telephone interview with Dr. David E. Wigley and Mr. Todd J. Obijeski. The above amendments and the remarks below reflect the substance of the interview. Applicants and their representatives thank Examiner Choi for his courtesy in conducting this interview.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,056,669 to Ballard et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,969,386 to Ballard et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,950,269 to Setterquist, U.S. Patent No. 3,738,944 to Candlin et al., or U.S. Patent No. 3,773,742 to Kruse, either one in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,272,124 to Wu. Claim 36 is cancelled herein, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

According to the PTO, Claims 20-35 are allowable over the closest references. Applicants respectfully assert that the above amendments to Claims 20 and 21, as discussed during the March 20th telephone interview, do not impact patentability and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Further, in the section of the above-identified Final Office Action entitled "Allowable Subject Matter," the PTO summarized Claim 20. Specifically, in

paragraph 4, page 3, the PTO indicated that the invention as claimed in Claim 20 employs the phrase, "...an aluminum-containing support selected from the group consisting of...and mixtures thereof." However, Applicants did not use this form of a Markush group. Regardless, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 20-35 as presented in this Amendment remain allowable for the reasons stated by the PTO.

CONCLUSION

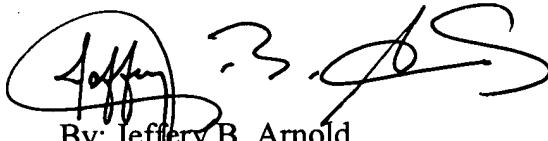
The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Amendment and Response to the Final Office Action dated March 27, 2006. For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20-35 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of these claims.

This Amendment and Response is being filed within two (2) months of the final action, therefore Applicants request that an Advisory Action be issued in this case.

No fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 09-0528.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: May 24, 2006

By: Jeffery B. Arnold
Reg. No. 39,540

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0037
Direct Telephone: (404) 879-2433
Direct Facsimile: (404) 879-2933
Firm Telephone: (404) 872-7000

Atty. Docket No.: C51757 0042 (51879.0039.8)